1   9.   (Amended) The transmission system of claim 1, the data management

2   module to continue to receive the transmitter's transmission characteristic and to adjust

3   the data flow management if the transmission characteristic changes.

1   10.   (Amended) The transmission system of claim 1, the data management

2   module to combine digital data with television data to transmit over the transport

3   medium.

1   12.   (Amended) The transmission system of claim 1, wherein the configuration

2   information is retrieved by the data management module at startup of the transmitter

3   module or data management module.

1   13.   (Amended) The transmission system of claim 12, the data management

2   module and transmitter module to continue to exchange configuration information after

3   startup.

1   14.   (Amended) A transmission system comprising:

2   a data management program capable of assembling data;

3   a transmitter capable of receiving data from the data management program

4   and transmitting the data to a transport medium; and

5   a communication interface between the data management program and

6   the transmitter that enables the data management program and transmitter to negotiate the

7   type of communication to be performed,

8   the transmitter to contain configuration information specifying a

9   characteristic of the transmitter,

10   the data management program to access the configuration information of

11   the transmitter and to modify management of data flow based on the configuration

12   information.

1   19.   (Amended) The transmission system of claim 16, the data management

2   program and transmitters to exchange information on a continuous basis.

2

1   20.   (Amended) The transmission system of claim 17, wherein the transport
2   media have different data flow rates.

1   21.   (Amended) A computer-readable medium storing a program executable by
2   a computer in a transmission system including a transmitter coupled to a transport
3   medium, the program comprising instructions for causing the computer to:
4   retrieve stored information to identify at least one transmission
5   characteristic of the transmitter; and
6   modify data flow management based on the identified at least one
7   transmission characteristic.

1   25.   (Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 21, wherein the
2   transmission system further includes a data management module, the program further
3   comprising instructions causing the computer to cause the data management module and
4   transmitter to exchange information relating to the transport medium's at least one
5   transmission characteristic.

1   26.   (Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 25, wherein the data
2   management module and transmitter exchange information on a continuous basis.

1   27.   (Amended) A method of managing data flow over a transport medium in
2   an interactive transmission system, comprising:
3   accessing stored configuration information;
4   identifying, based on the accessed configuration information, at least one
·5   transmission characteristic of a transmitter used to transmit data over the transport
6   medium; and
7   modifying data flow management based on the identified at least one
8   transmission characteristic.

1   30.   (Amended) The method of claim 27, wherein the at least one transmission
2   characteristic of the transmitter is identified on a continuous basis.

3

Add the following claims:

1   31.   (New) The transmission system of claim 1, the configuration information
2   to specify one or more of the following:
3   maximum transfer rate, maximum size of each data packet, and usage of
4   compression.

1   32.   (New) The transmission system of claim 1, wherein the configuration
2   information comprises at least one of information to indicate if the transmitter module is
3   able to assign priorities to data, and information to indicate if the transmitter module is
4   able to perform bandwidth management.

1   33.   (New) The transmission system of claim 14, the configuration information
2   to specify one or more of the following:
3   maximum transfer rate, maximum size of each data packet, and usage of
4   compression.

1   34.   (New) The transmission system of claim 14, wherein the configuration
2   information comprises at least one of information to indicate if the transmitter module is
3   able to assign priorities to data, and information to indicate if the transmitter module is
4   able to perform bandwidth management.

1   35.   (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 21, wherein the
2   information specifies one or more of the following:
3   maximum transfer rate, maximum size of each data packet, and usage of
4   compression.

1   36.   (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 21, wherein the

2   information comprises at least one of information to indicate if the transmitter module is

3   able to assign priorities to data, and information to indicate if the transmitter module is

4   able to perform bandwidth management.

1   37.   (New) The method of claim 27, the configuration information to specify

2   one or more of the following:

3   maximum transfer rate, maximum size of each data packet, and usage of

4   compression.

1   38.   (New) The method of claim 27, wherein the configuration information

2   comprises at least one of information to indicate if the transmitter module is able to

3   assign priorities to data, and information to indicate if the transmitter module is able to

4   perform bandwidth management.